

**15.19 Scope:**

When a dispatch is received for a carbon monoxide alarm and no symptoms are reported the response shall be a single unit "NORMAL FLOW" with a monitoring device and SCBA. If the dispatch includes additional information of occupants having symptoms or a possible rescue situation the response shall be a station response at an "EMERGENCY" response and EMS requested if they have not already been dispatched.

**15.1901 Procedure:**

- A. The monitor shall be set-up and zeroed in a clean air environment(NO vehicle exhaust)
- B. Enter the structure in full personal protective equipment including SCBA with the gas monitor
- C. Verify that the alarm is a carbon monoxide alarm and not a smoke alarm
- D. If it is determined to be a smoke alarm, SOG's for fire shall be followed. If it is a carbon monoxide detector:
  - i. Be sure the structure is evacuated and start the investigation procedure with 2-3 firefighters only.
  - ii. Determine if anyone is exhibiting any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (Symptoms may include, but not limited to headache, nausea, fatigue, dizzy spells or impaired judgment)
  - iii. If no one is exhibiting any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, check the interior of the structure to get a parts per million (ppm) carbon monoxide reading. Use the TCFD carbon monoxide incident form to guide the investigation
  - iv. Do not ventilate until the structure has been metered and the possible cause has been determined.
- E. Monitor readings of 10 ppm and below:
  - i. If the monitor has a reading of 10 ppm or less, advise the homeowner that they should check the CO detector per manufacturer's recommendations, and install a new battery in their detector or install a new CO detector. If the alarm activates again, call 911.
- F. Monitor readings of 11 ppm or greater but less than 100 ppm :
  - i. If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning than that appliance shall be shut off.
  - ii. Ventilation (electric fans) of the structure shall begin to bring levels below 10 ppm.
  - iii. Local Gas Company shall be notified.
  - iv. Inform the residents that potentially dangerous levels of CO have been detected.
  - v. If the gas company has been notified, the crew shall stand-by until the arrival of the gas company. Advise the resident to have the detector checked as recommended by the manufacturer and if the alarm reactivates to contact 911. Have the resident sign and keep a copy of the TCFD carbon monoxide incident form.
- G. Monitor readings of greater than 100 ppm:
  - i. If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning than that appliance shall be shut off.
  - ii. Ventilation (electric fans) of the structure shall begin to bring levels below 10 ppm.
  - iii. Local Gas Company shall be notified if necessary.
  - iv. Inform the resident that a potential lethal level of CO was detected.
  - v. If the local gas company has been notified and is responding, the crew shall stand-by until arrival of the gas company. Advise the resident to have the CO detector checked as recommended by the manufacturer and sign and keep a copy of the TCFD carbon monoxide incident form.
  - vi. Inform the resident to contact 911 if the alarm reactivates.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

Cumru Township Fire Department  
Standard Operating Guidelines  
Section 15.19

**Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

04/27/10  
Page: 2 of 2

**15.1902 Safety:**

SCBA's shall be worn by all personnel who enter the structure to check for carbon monoxide gas. This also includes full protective bunker gear, pants, coat, gloves, nomex hood and helmet. The equipment will continue to be worn until the gas meter may sample the air to determine if it is safe to breathe without SCBA.